

# Retention in care of ART patients through community-based adherence clubs (ACs)

**Theme 1:** Community Health Worker Programs that Support the Uptake of HIV Prevention and Treatment Services

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# Background

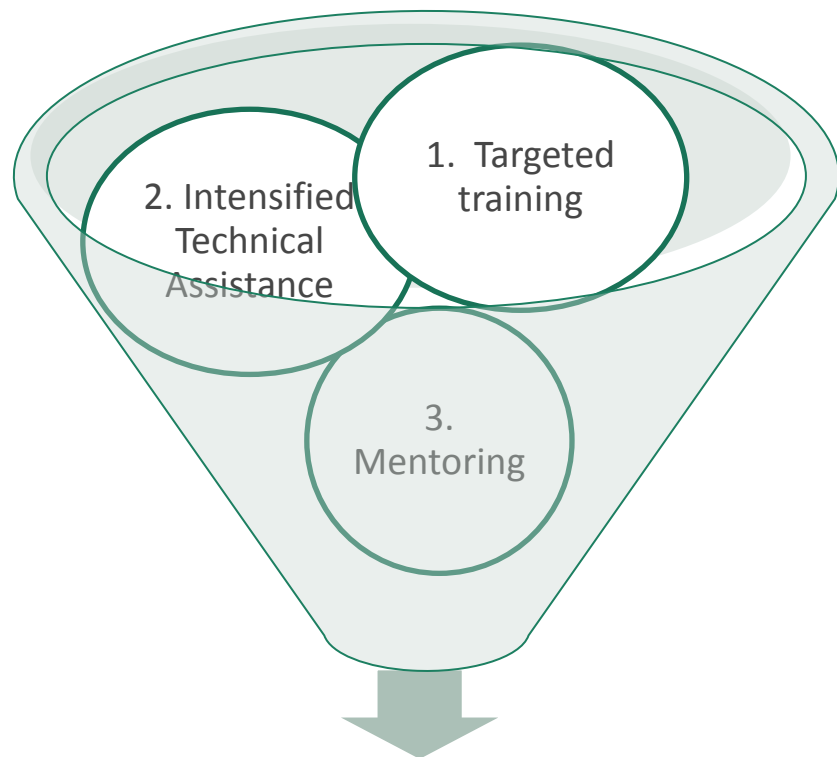
USAID-funded  
CaSIPO Project  
develops the  
capacity of  
organizations and  
individuals at  
community level to  
improve retention  
and reintegration of  
patients in care.



Community-based  
ACs offering  
adherence support,  
health education,  
nutritional  
assessments, STI and  
TB screenings and  
referral

Tracing patients Lost  
to Follow Up

# Data Methods



**CaSIPO develops CHWs and supervisors' skills and knowledge for improved quality services at community levels**

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Establishment of adherence clubs (incl. cohorting)

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Facilitation of adherence clubs (incl. referrals)

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Provision of Universal Care Interventions (UCI) (NACS, STI and TB screenings)

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Supervision of adherence clubs (AC Facilitation Audits)

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Record keeping and monitoring data quality (AC and UCI Registers Audits)

**CHWs:** Community Health Workers

**NACS:** Nutritional Assessment Counselling and Support

**STI:** Sexually Transmitted Infection

**TB:** Tuberculosis

# To Establishment and Maintenance of Community-Based ACs

Patients Files (paper-based)



AC Registers (paper-based)



UCI Registers (paper-based)



**Tier.net**

**Facility and  
CBO  
Community  
Tool**

**Facility level  
Cohorting  
Report**

**District level  
Cohorting  
Report**

**District level  
Decanting  
Reporting  
Tool**

**National  
level  
Decanting  
Reporting  
Tool**

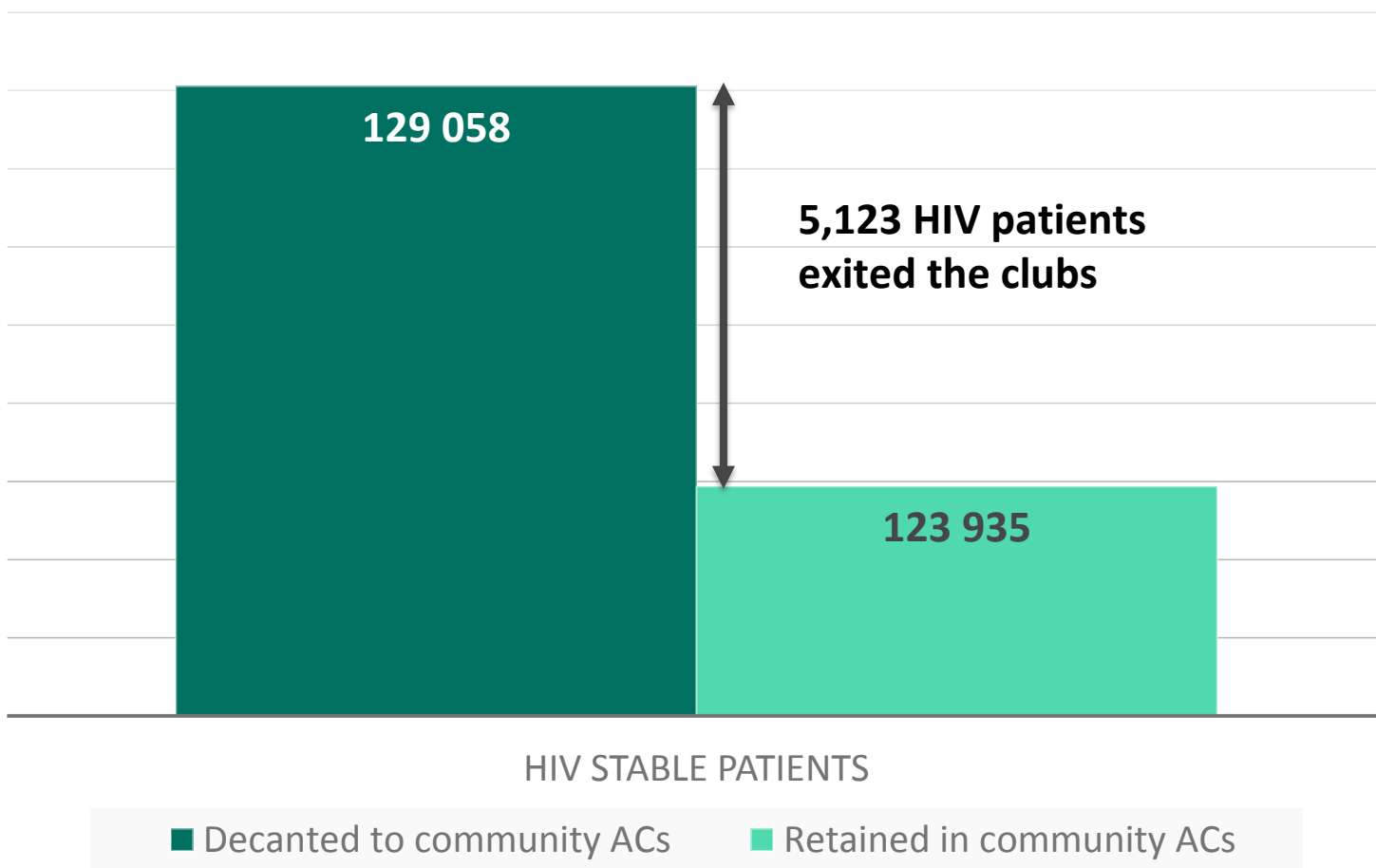


## Key Results

## Retention in care

Patients decanted and retained in community ACs between October 2016 and March 2018

96%

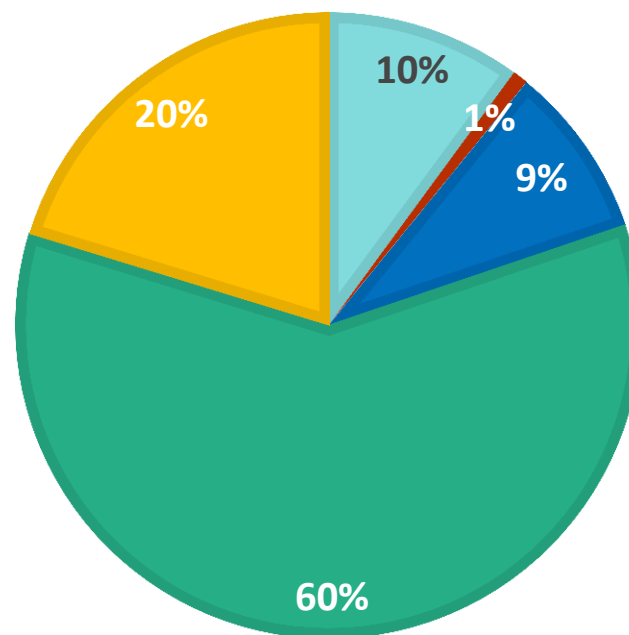




**129,058 HIV stable patients decanted from 330 clinics to 4,971 community-based adherence clubs across 15 Districts.**

## 5,123 patients exited the clubs

■ LTFU      ■ RIP  
■ Unstable & back to clinic (BTC)    ■ Transfer out (T/O)  
■ Other



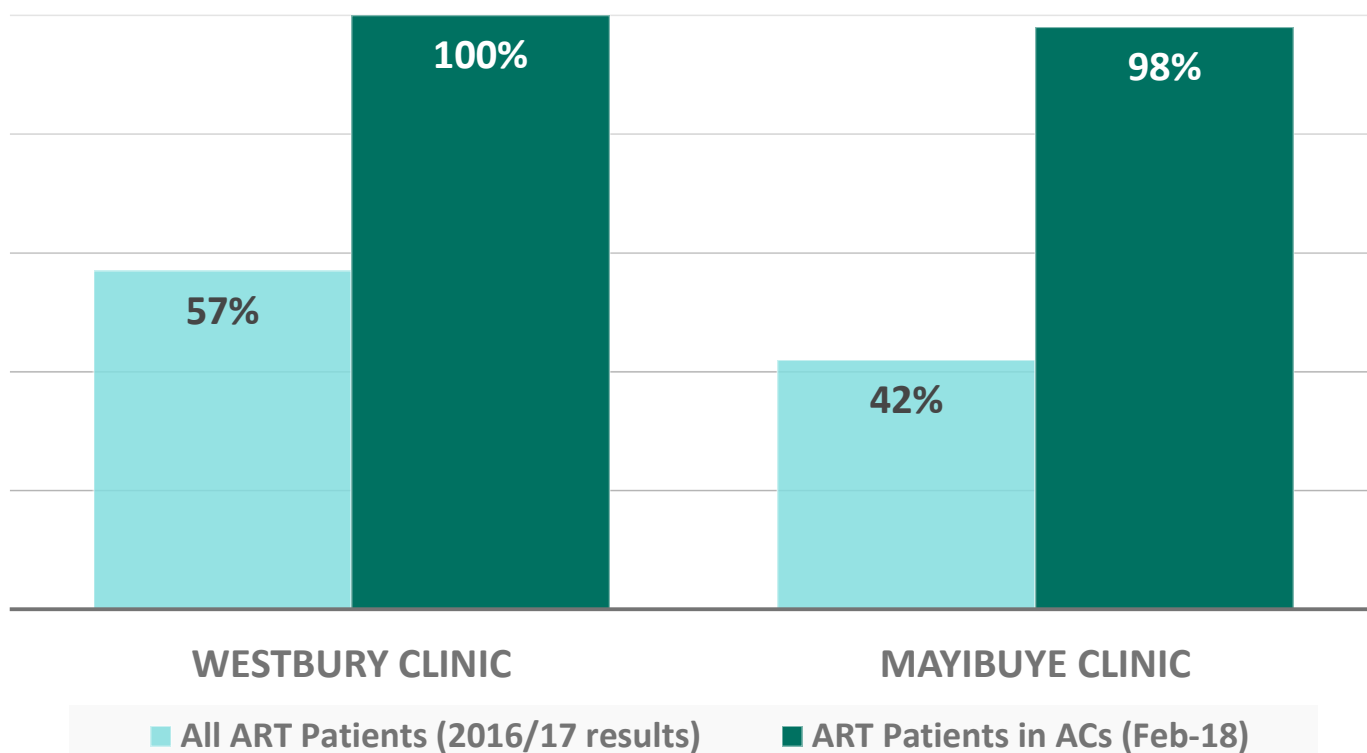
LTFU	RIP	Unstable & BTC	T/O	Other
517	41	450	3,075	1,040

## Cohorting of patients resulted in:

- orderly services to ART patients in clubs;
- increased rates of viral load completion for the cohorts of ART patients in clubs.

By 31 March 2018, CaSIPO supported 51 facilities in Johannesburg Health District (JHD) to cohort 20,439 ART patients.

Rate of VL completion for overall ART population and for ART patients in ACs in 2 clinics in JHD, Sub-District A



## CBOs not funded by DoH

- Facilitation of the ACs done by CHW employed by CBO

## CBOs funded by DoH

- Facilitation of the ACs done by CHW employed by CBO

## WBPHCOTs

- Facilitation of the ACs done by WBPHCOT's OTL or CHW

## Direct Service Delivery

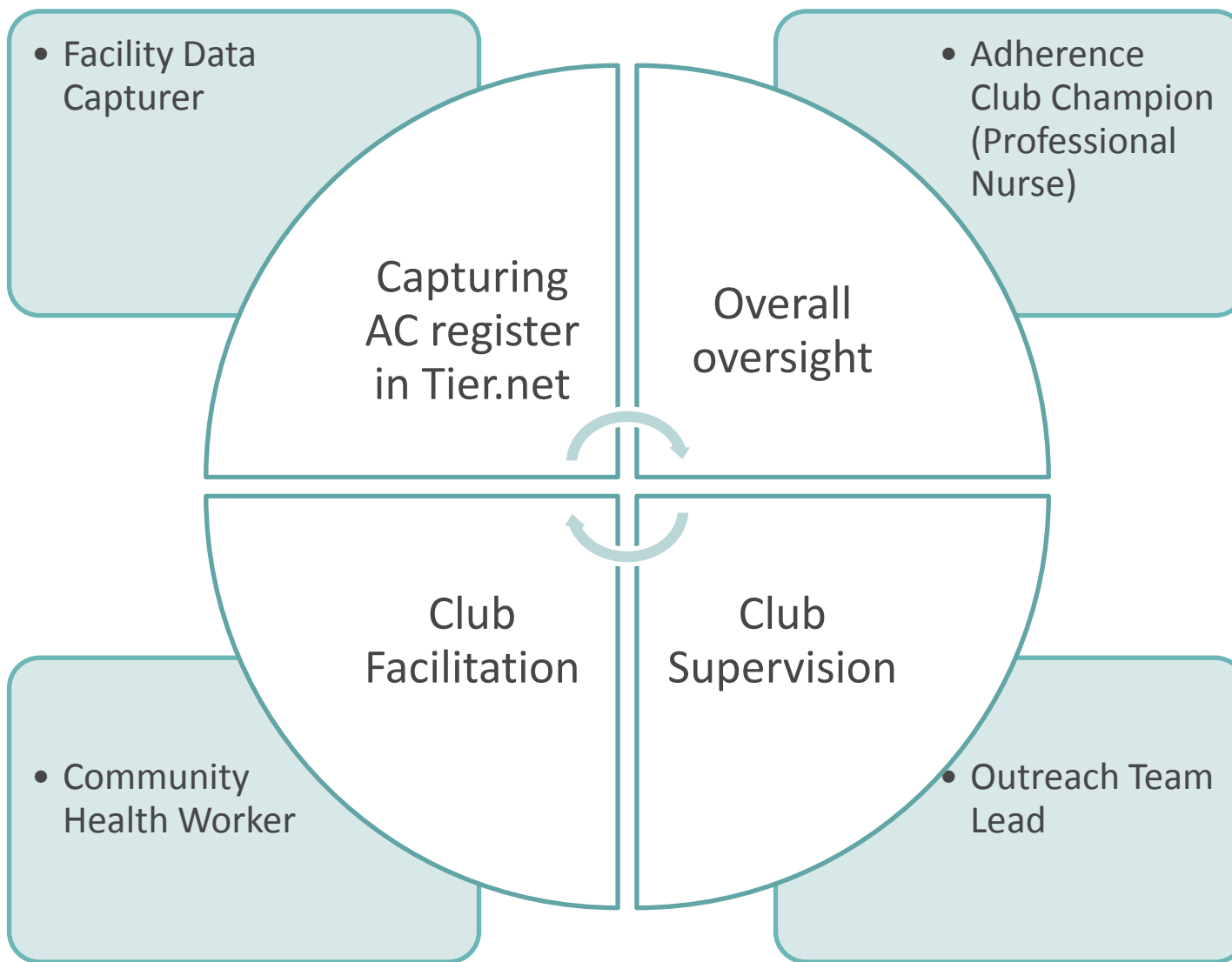
- Facilitation of the ACs done by Project's staff

The establishment and facilitation of ACs by CHWs or CBOs funded by the DoH is a scalable and sustainable model.

The ownership of the AGL by the Districts is a key success factor in the implementation of the decanting process and the establishment of community-based ACs.

The use of CHWs or CBOs funded by the DoH for the facilitation of the ACs strengthens the linkages with the decanting clinics and facilitates a two-way referral pathway.

### WBPHCOTs Model: Role players



ACs not structured per cohort result in a disorganized provision of HIV services, with patients in one group receiving different services on the day of the club.

Quarterly cohorting ensures that all patients from the AC are due for their yearly clinical blood tests and clinical examination at the same time.  
The AC Facilitator can remind the group about scheduled HIV services and monitor their compliance with these appointments.

In JHD, the development of the SOP For Cohorting for Repeat Prescription Collection Strategies (RPCS): Adherence Clubs (AC), Spaced Fast Lane Appointments (SFLA) and CCMDD External Pick-up-Points (PuPs) played a key role in standardizing and fast-tracking the cohorting process.

Appropriate cohorting will enable patients on lifelong ART to move seamlessly from one RPCS option to another depending on their needs and circumstances.

## Summary of Key Points

# Retention in care of ART patients through community based adherence clubs: Stephanie Berrada, CaSIPO

1. The use of CHWs or CBOs funded by the DoH for the facilitation of the ACs is a scalable and sustainable model which strengthens the linkages with the decanting clinics and facilitates a two-way referral pathway.
2. The key role players within the WBPHCOTs Model are the AC Champion at the facility who provides overall oversight on the program, the OTL who supervise and monitor the quality of the facilitation, the CHW who facilitate the clubs and the facility Data Capturer who ensures that the AC register is capture in Tier.net.
3. Quarterly cohorting ensures that all patients from the club are due for their yearly clinical blood tests and clinical examination at the same time. It facilitates monitoring of HIV services and enables patients on lifelong ART to move seamlessly from one RPCS option to another depending on their needs and circumstances.



# Thank you,

